

These minutes are subject to approval at the meeting on May 27th 2008

Biddenden Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on April 8th 2008 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr Mrs J Ashcroft

Cllr C Friend

Cllr A Barfoot

Cllr T Lupton

Cllr Mrs E Cansdale

Cllr H Richards

Cllr M Conway

Cllr J Rymer Jones - **Chairman**

Cllr C Daly

Cllr P Whapham – **Vice Chairman**

9 parishioners were also present plus 6 more who arrived at 8.30pm

Apology for absence from Cllr N Bell, Ashford BC who was attending an ABC meeting.

Before the start of the meeting the Chairman asked all present to stand for a minute's silence in memory of Robert Brown, a previously long serving Chairman and Councillor, who died recently.

- 1 There were no alterations to members Register of Interests
- 2 Items raised by parishioners present

Mrs Daly spoke in support of a doctor's surgery for the village and pointed out it was a public service rather than just a normal commercial business.

Mr Charlton asked that a copy of his letter of resignation from the Council be placed on the village notice board. This was agreed.

Mr Harris asked that the Council consider making land available for allotments. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mr Churton thanked the Council for its support for the Biddenden Transport Service pointing out that miles run in 2005/6 were 2300 and in 2007/8 are now 7200. Twelve volunteer drivers are involved.

He asked why Cllr Friend had spoken at ABC in support of a planning application for a property in the grounds of Henden Hall. Cllr Friend emphasised he had spoken in a personal capacity not as a Councillor. (It appears ABC have incorrectly minuted the matter)

Mr Heath said work on Planning Application 08/00499 had started before permission had been granted (or refused). The Clerk would follow up.
- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on February 12th 2008

These were approved and signed by the Chairman. With reference to minute 5 Cllr Conway said some councils did use RADAR locks.
- 4 Jubilee Meadow

The Chairman gave an overview of the proposal that a small portion of the Meadow behind Old Mill Court could be used as a location for the village's desired doctor's surgery. He explained that Ashford BC would not accept a location near Sandeman Way or near the Cheeslands recreation area. An application to use the Cellars site in the High Street had been refused.

He felt the only sites the Parish Council could consider were a part of the Gordon Jones Field or part of the Millennium Field car park or part of the Jubilee Meadow. He recognised that each site would encounter some objections.

Cllrs Conway and Richards emphasised they were totally against using part of the Meadow as when it was purchased donors were assured that it would be safeguarded from development and a surgery would be breaking this pledge. Cllr Richards did acknowledge that the original Field Appeal letter referred to the field providing a possible “Centre for the village, perhaps a sports facility or environmental venue” and said he would not be against a surgery on the site as part of a larger village facility.

Cllr Barfoot felt the provision of a surgery was not an issue for the Parish Council and that the doctors should source a location themselves.

Cllr Lupton considered the right way forward was to establish all the facts (and importantly the legal facts) concerning the various sites before the Council made any decision. It was agreed Cllrs Barfoot, Daly, Friend and Richards would form a Group and report back to the Council at the May meeting. The Chairman said he would be an ex officio member of the Group.

5 Reports from Group Chairmen

Car park/toilets

Cllr Daly said the CCTV had been ordered and the precise location of the equipment in the Post Office was being examined. Cllr Richards said he was progressing with ABC the car park fence and noted that planning permission would be required for the short length of path from the car park to the pavement. The Clerk would arrange. Cllr Richards said the Millennium Field sign would now go on the Squash Club wall.

Traffic and Pedestrians

Cllr Friend said a report from English Heritage as to their suggestions for the south side High Street pavement was awaited.

He was following up with Kent Highways the Cot Lane bollards and the possibility of moving the adjacent 40 mph restriction further north.

Also the poor state of Fosten Lane would be emphasised to Kent Highways.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow .

Minutes of the Group meeting of March 27th were circulated. Cllr Richards said he would finalise the base arrangements for the MF car park height barrier. He would also establish the additional cost of low barrier to deter misuse of the car park “out of hours”.

Gordon Jones Field

Cllr Mrs Cansdale said the essential repairs to the play equipment had been ordered from Messrs Wicksteed.

Police

Cllr Mrs Cansdale reported 28 parishioners attended the recent PACT meeting. Crime rates in Biddenden are generally down compared with last year.

It was agreed to purchase a suitable gift for PC Annie Williams, our local PC, to mark her retirement.

Local housing Nothing to report

2008/2

KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils)

Cllr Conway reported that KALC are concerned that ABC do not rigorously enforce planning applications that are turned down.

The ABC Local Development Framework is delayed as the Inspector is unhappy with the provision of job opportunities

Cllr Conway reported on the new Ashford and Tenterden libraries.

He said, of interest, that 98% of complaints to the Ashford Standards Committee are turned down as not meriting further investigation.

Youth matters

Cllr Daly is liaising with T Swain concerning allocation of some “Recycling money” to assist villagers with the summer sports week.

Recycling

Council agreed to fund Biddenden Transport Group £400, John Mayne Trust (sports week support) £200 and the After School Club £150 (on presentation of appropriate receipts). These donations would be from the recycling income earned from ABC.

- 6 Village grass cutting Cllr Mrs Cansdale and the Clerk had identified the necessary work and three firms would be asked to tender.
- 7 Finance. (See attached)
The Clerk reported that the presentation of the final Post Office/toilets scheme income and expenditure would be available in a few days from the independent accountant.
- 8 Planning (See attached)
The Chairman drew attention to the follow up Community Workshop (on possible village development) to be held on April 17th. Cllr Richards proposed all councillors should receive a copy of the ABC Workshop Report. The Chairman said that he had informed ABC that the Parish Council must be consulted.
- 9 Correspondence (See attached)
- 10 Annual Parish Meeting. 7pm April 22nd 2008
The Chairman asked that all Group chairman speak briefly on their work over the last year. Cllrs Hill, KCC, and Bell, ABC, would also be present.
- 11 AOB Councillors asked whether the graffiti could be removed from the brick bus shelter. Clerk to action.
- 12 Next meetings Annual Parish Meeting April 22nd, full Council May 27th.